

British Museum (Natural History)



BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

SERIES No. 2

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 19

One Shilling



a



b

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

Black-veined White (*Aporia crataegi*) (a) Male (b) Female
Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN
MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE.

PRINTED IN
GREAT
BRITAIN.



BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

Small White (*Pieris rapae*) (a) Male (b) Female Spring Brood
 (c) Male (d) Female Summer Brood
 Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN
MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE.

PRINTED IN
GREAT
BRITAIN.



a



b

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*) (a) Male (b) Female
Natural size

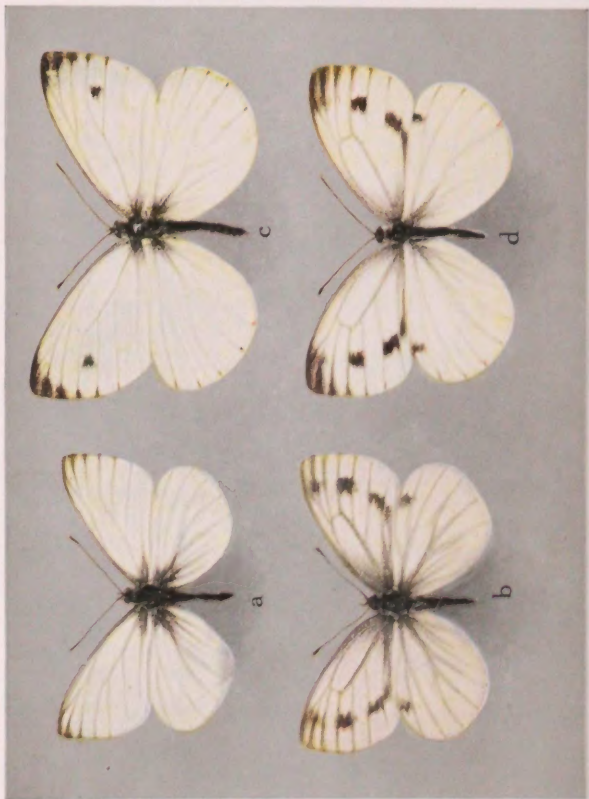
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN
MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE.

PRINTED IN
GREAT
BRITAIN.



BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*) (a) Male (b) Female Spring Brood
 (c) Male (d) Female Summer Brood
 Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN
MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE.

PRINTED IN
GREAT
BRITAIN.



BRITISH BUTTERFLIES

Wood White (*Leptosia sinapis*) (a) Male (b) Female Spring Brood
(c) Male (d) Female Summer Brood

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

POST CARD.

THE SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN
MATTER.

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
WRITTEN HERE.

PRINTED IN
GREAT
BRITAIN.

BRITISH BUTTERFLIES.

Series No. 2.

In a previous series of cards (Set E 5) butterflies belonging to most of the main groups to be found in the British Isles were illustrated. The present series illustrates five more species of the White family (*Pieridae*).

The species belonging to this family, and to the Swallow-tail family (*Papilionidae*) differ in many fundamental points from all the other families of butterflies. The easiest character by which to distinguish them is furnished by their legs. In both families both sexes have all three pairs of legs fully developed, furnished with claws, and used for walking. Our only British Swallow-tail Butterfly (Card E 41) cannot possibly be mistaken for or confused with any other British species; so it is unnecessary here to enumerate the structural differences which separate the *Papilionidae* from the *Pieridae*.

E III. BLACK-VEINED WHITE (*Aporia crataegi*).

Formerly this butterfly used to occur in a number of localities in the south of England, the Midlands, and South Wales, although somewhat irregularly, except in the New Forest where, until comparatively

recently, it was generally to be found; but now it seems virtually to have disappeared from these islands, although it is a common, frequently abundant, species on the Continent, where its caterpillar occasionally does considerable damage to the foliage of fruit-trees. The long, narrow eggs are laid in clusters, and are ornamented with a curious coronet-like top. The winter is passed in the caterpillar state, the caterpillars living together in a gregarious manner within a silken shelter, from which they emerge, morning and evening, to feed. They resemble those of the Large White to some extent, but are rather more boldly marked.

E 112. LARGE WHITE (*Pieris brassicae*).

It may seem, perhaps, unnecessary to figure such common species as those reproduced on this and the next two cards; yet it frequently happens that the commonest butterflies are amongst the least studied. The Large White is so conspicuously larger than all its near relations that it can at once be recognised on the wing. Occasional specimens, dwarfed or stunted from lack of food in the larval condition, are a little confusing, but the length of the black border on the outer margin of the forewing will always serve to distinguish them. The female, it will be noticed, bears a number of black spots which are absent in the male; this is a character which runs through the majority of White butterflies in one form or another, and is of considerable use in determining the sexes of specimens. It has not been possible to figure both spring and summer broods of this species, although they differ to some extent, the spring specimens having greyer tips to the forewings, and more grey-speckled undersides than the summer forms. The caterpillar is sometimes an all too common sight where cabbages are grown.

E 113. SMALL WHITE (*Pieris rapae*).

Sometimes called the Small Cabbage White, this species is commoner, and a good deal more regular in its occurrence, than its larger relative. The spring brood makes its appearance as soon as the weather shows any sign of becoming warmer, at about the same time as the Holly Blue and the hibernated Brimstones and Vanessa's. The butterflies of this first brood are very faintly marked on the upperside (the males at times are almost devoid of markings), and differ in this respect so conspicuously from their own progeny, the summer brood, that the earlier entomologists regarded them as a different species. Both broods are shewn on the postcard. Yellowish specimens are occasionally met with, and in the United States, where the species was by some means introduced, a bright yellow variety known as *novangliae* has sometimes been found. The caterpillar is green with a brownish head, and feeds on most plants of the cabbage tribe, but in gardens is most frequently found upon mignonette and nasturtium.

E 114. GREEN-VEINED WHITE (*Pieris napi*).

There should be no difficulty in recognising this interesting and variable species. All the forms which occur in this country are at once distinguishable from all the other Whites, if not by the dark veining of the underside of the hindwing, then by the broken nature of the black marginal markings of the upperside. The differences between the spring and summer broods, as can be seen from the postcard, are even more marked than in the other species of *Pieris*. The summer form is much larger, brighter, and less heavily veined. This last feature is so reduced in some of the foreign races that it is not at all easy to recognise them at first sight. Irish and Scottish races are particularly interesting on account of the tendency of the females to become yellow, or to approach in appearance the dark Alpine race known as *bryoniae*. The green caterpillar is very similar to that of the Small White, but is less marked with yellow, and feeds upon a variety of different Crucifers.

E 115. WOOD WHITE (*Leptosia sinapis*).

This is one of our rarer British Butterflies, being found now in only a few localities in the south. Probably it had a much wider distribution formerly, and even now may occur over a larger area than is generally assumed; for it is not a strong flier, and moves little from the particular locality in which it occurs. It is still to be found in one or two specially sheltered localities in Surrey and Sussex; in the New Forest it is now much scarcer than formerly. Its flight is, however, stronger than would be supposed from its frail appearance, and it is not too easily distinguished, when on the wing, from the Green-veined White. Here, again, the spring and summer broods show marked differences, as can be seen by reference to the postcard. The caterpillar feeds upon Bird's-foot Trefoil, Yellow Pea, Vetch, &c., during June and again during August and September, and somewhat resembles an attenuated, less conspicuously marked, Green-veined White caterpillar. The chrysalis, on the other hand, suggests that of the Orange Tip, but is less tapered at each end.

Set E 19.

July, 1924.

